



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Michelle Steel, Member

3rd District – Rolling Hills Estates

Ramon J. Hirsig
Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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Board of Equalization Holds Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing

Annual Public Hearing Set for June 15, 2010 in Southern California

Michelle Steel, Third District Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced that the Board will hold a Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing on June 15th at the BOE Culver City District Office. The June 15th hearing enables Southern California taxpayers to come before the Board with comments on issues related to the business and property taxes laws administered or overseen by the BOE, including environmental fees, sales and use, fuel, excise, and property taxes.

Event: Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2010
Time: Approximately 3:30 p.m. or completion of oral hearings
Place: Board of Equalization Culver City District Office
5901 Green Valley Circle, Suite 207
Culver City, CA 90230

Anyone planning to make a presentation at the hearing is invited to contact the BOE [Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office](http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/emailtra.htm) by calling toll free 888-324-2798 or emailing www.boe.ca.gov/info/emailtra.htm. More information about the hearing is available online at www.boe.ca.gov/meetings/heartra.htm. The hearing will also be webcast live at www.boe.ca.gov.

A previous hearing was held on April 13th in Sacramento.

In January 1989, the BOE was mandated by the Harris-Katz California Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Law to ensure that the rights, privacy, and property of California taxpayers were adequately protected in the assessment and collection of sales and use taxes. The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights was expanded in 1993 to include special tax programs and the Morgan Property Taxpayers' Bill of Rights was added in 1994. Both the Harris-Katz and the Morgan Taxpayers' Bill of Rights require the BOE to conduct annual hearings to give the public an opportunity to present their ideas, concerns, and recommendations to the Board Members.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006, Michelle Steel serves as Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate. In 2008, Steel uncovered a \$42 million mistake in the agency's sales tax refund procedures. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office: www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra.htm

Taxpayers' Rights Advocate's Annual Report: www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra0809.pdf

Publication 70, *Understanding Your Rights as a California Taxpayer*: www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub70.pdf